

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT RESOLUTION AND
DECLARATION OF THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE WHICH IS BEING
CIRCULATED TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE SESSION.

THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
HAVING MET AT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA FROM
14-25 AUGUST 1978,
RECALLING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROMOTE
AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL
WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION;
FURTHER RECALLING THE DESIGNATION BY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON 10 DECEMBER 1973 AS
THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;
BEARING IN MIND THE GOALS OF THE DECADE WHICH ARE: TO
PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL,
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WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF ANY KIND SUCH AS RACE, COLOUR, DESCENT,
OR NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, ESPECIALLY BY ERADICATING RACIAL
PREJUDICE, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, TO ARREST ANY
EXPANSION OF RACIST POLICIES, TO ELIMINATE THE PERSISTENCE OF
RACIST POLICIES AND TO COUNTERACT THE EMERGENCE OF ALLIANCES
BASED ON MUTUAL ESPOUSAL OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;
TO RESIST ANY POLICY AND

PRACTICES WHICH LEAD TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RACIST REGIMES AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINMENT OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION; TO IDENTIFY, ISOLATE AND DISPEL THE FALLACIOUS AND MYTHICAL BELIEFS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND TO PUT AN END TO RACIST REGIMES;
RECALLING THE FIRM RESOLVE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTION 3057 (XXVIII) OF 2 NOVEMBER 1973, "TO ACHIEVE THE TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WHICH THE CONSCIENCE AND SENSE OF JUSTICE OF MANKIND HAVE LONG BEEN AROUSED AND WHICH IN OUR TIME REPRESENT SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY";
EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF ALL MEMBER STATES TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF AN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER AND IN PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION;
HAVING REVIEWED NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE DECADE;
NOTING THAT WHILE SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION STILL PERSIST IN MANY COUNTRIES AND IN VARIOUS FORMS, INCLUDING THE REPUGNANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRACTICE OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA;
INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR TO REDOUBLE THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;
NOTING THAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HAVE DEEP-ROOTED SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CAUSES WHICH CALL FOR ALL-OUT AND CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO ERADICATE THE ROOT CAUSES OF THESE EVILS;
RECOGNIZING THAT UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;
ENDORING THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 8 NOVEMBER 1976; THE LAGOS DECLARATION FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID (1977); AND THE MAPUTO DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA (1977);
STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTION AT THE NATIONAL AND

LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING ADEQUATE RECOURSE PROCEDURES, FOR THE EFFECTIVE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION;

SOLEMNLY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

DECLARATION:

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HUMAN BEINGS ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOR, DESCENT, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN IS AN AFFRONT TO HUMANITY AND SHALL BE CONDEMNED AS A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AS AN OBSTACLE TO FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS, AND AS A FACTOR CAPABLE OF DISTURBING PEACE AND SECURITY AMONG

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PEOPLE AND IN THE WORLD AT LARGE. NON-DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOR, DESCENT, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE I OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS AN IMPERATIVE NORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ARE A NEGATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS, PEOPLES AND NATIONS, AND OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO FULL DEVELOPMENT.

THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALL THEIR FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS MOST REGRETTABLE THAT AFTER A THIRD OF A CENTURY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CONTINUE TO PROLIFERATE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

WHILE THE MOST ABHORRENT FORM OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE PRACTICE OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ARE WORLD-WIDE PHENOMENA AND MUST BE TACKLED ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE. THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS A VALUABLE INSTRUMENT
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FOR THIS PURPOSE AND SHOULD BE GIVEN MAXIMUM AND UNIVERSAL SUPPORT.

COVERT PRACTICES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ARE FREQUENTLY USED TO THWART THE STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE EXPOSURE, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF SUCH PRACTICES.

THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BEING AN IMPERATIVE NORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE EXERCISE OF COMPETING RIGHTS SUCH AS FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION OR EXPRESSION CANNOT BE USED AS JUSTIFYING THE PROPAGATION OF RACIST IDEAS. GOVERNMENTS HAVE A DUTY TO ENSURE THAT PRIORITY IS GIVEN IN THEIR NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS TO PROHIBIT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TO PROSCRIBE THE DISSEMINATION OF RACIST IDEAS.

THE PROSCRIPTION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BY LAW SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO ENSURE EQUALITY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. IN THIS REGARD, SPECIAL EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF TOLERANCE, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION.

THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE EFFORTS OF UNESCO TOWARDS THE ELABORATION OF A DECLARATION ON RACE, AS WELL AS ITS EFFORT TOWARD THE PREPARATION OF A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION, MASS MEDIA AND SOCIAL SCIENCE IN COMBATING RACISM.

VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DENIAL OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION, MASS POVERTY AND ILLITERACY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OPPRESSION AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES ARE ROOT CAUSES OF DISCRIMINATION AND TENSION.

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AS DECLARED IN THE PROGRAM AGAINST APARTHEID ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 9 NOVEMBER 1976, THE ABOLITION OF RACIST DOMINATION AND EXPLOITATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND

ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH A NON-RACIAL SOCIETY HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE PRIMARY CONCERNS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. APARTHEID MUST BE ERADICATED BECAUSE IT IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AND BECAUSE ITS ERADICATION IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE UNIVERSAL ELIMINATION OF RACISM.

THE CALL, MADE IN THE LAGOS DECLARATION FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, TO GOVERNMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO INTENSIFY THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FURTHER ISOLATION OF THE APARTHEID REGIME WITH A VIEW TO COMPLEMENTING THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MUST BE ACCORDED THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

THE CONFERENCE COMMENDS THE ACTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN ITS RESOLUTION 418 OF 4 NOVEMBER 1977 TO INVOKE CHAPTER VII OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER IN ORDER TO MAKE ALL STATES CEASE FORTHWITH ANY PROVISION OF ARMS AND RELATED MATERIAL TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE CONFERENCE URGES THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AS WELL AS COMPLETE CESSATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE CONFERENCE ALSO URGES THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT SANCTIONS AGAINST THE ILLEGAL REGIME OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 41 OF THE CHARTER.

THE CONFERENCE REITERATES THE CONVICTION THAT AS LONG AS THE RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FLAUNT AND DEFEY UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS. THEREFORE THE CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS

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TO EXPOSE AND CONDEMN ANY FORM OF DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THESE REGIMES.

THE CONFERENCE STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS TO SPEED UP THE PACE OF DECOLONIZATION, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO CASES WHERE NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RECENT YEARS. ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE FOCUSED ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE CONFERENCE STRONGLY URGES ACCELERATED AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO LIQUIDATE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THE SCOURGES OF FOREIGN DOMINATION AND RACISM.

THE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES THAT NATIONAL, ETHNIC AND OTHER MINORITIES CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AND AFFIRMS THAT NATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES IS ESSENTIAL TO ENABLE THEM TO FULFILL THIS ROLE. THE CONFERENCE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT IN CERTAIN CASES SPECIAL PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS MAY BE CALLED FOR.

THE CONFERENCE ENDORSES THE RIGHT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO CARRY ON THEIR TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE OF ECONOMY AND CULTURE INCLUDING THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. THE CONFERENCE ALSO

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RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO THEIR LAND AND STRESSES THAT THEIR LAND, LAND RIGHTS AND NATURAL RESOURCES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM.

THE CONFERENCE IS AWARE THAT, WHENEVER THERE IS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE OFTEN DOUBLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. CONSEQUENTLY, SPECIAL EFFORTS ARE CALLED FOR TO ELIMINATE THE EFFECTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AND TO SECURE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF UNJUST RACIAL PATTERNS, THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND NEEDS.

THE CONFERENCE STRESSES THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ALL OVER THE WORLD AND CALLS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BE GIVEN TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THESE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY DISCRIMINATION OF A RACIAL CHARACTER.

THE CONFERENCE URGES THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO TAKE CONCRETE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM OF ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

THE CONFERENCE CALLS UPON GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS ORGANS, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO INTENSIFY AND EXPAND THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS ENSURING THE RAPID ERADI-

CATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND TO IMPLEMENT WITHOUT DELAY THE FOLLOWING MEASURES AS PART OF THEIR EFFORTS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
END QUOTE.
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